

King versus Rooks **By Abdelaziz Onkoud**

[Editor's note. A recent group of helpmate problems, featuring King vs. Rooks, by the renowned Moroccan composer, Abdelaziz Onkoud, prompted me to ask Abdelaziz to describe this interesting condition with examples. I have dubbed this condition The Onkoud Theme.]

Definition: Two Rooks are captured by opposing Kings after the line between them is closed by the pieces of the same or opposing colors.

C – The definition of the King vs. Rooks mechanism

Two Rooks of the same color are captured by the opposing King after the line between them is closed: - by the pieces of the same color (Forms I and VI) - by the pieces of opposite color (Forms II and VII) - by the pieces of both colors (Forms III and VIII) - by the same piece (Forms IV, V, IX and X)

Here are the different forms of the mechanism

Form I: A closing of black Rooks' lines by two black pieces.

Form II: A closing of black Rooks' lines by two white pieces.

Form III: A closing of black Rooks' lines by one black and one white piece.

Form IV: A closing of black Rooks' lines by the same black piece.

Form V: A closing of black Rooks' lines by the same white piece.

Form VII: A closing of white Rooks' lines by two black pieces.

Form VIII: A closing of white Rooks' lines by one white and one black piece.

Form IX: A closing of white Rooks' lines by the same white piece.

Form X: A closing of white Rooks' lines by the same black piece.